COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for inputting a video signal representative of a picture from a plurality of input channels, processing the video signal to apply a visual effect to the picture, and outputting the processed video signal to an output channel, the apparatus comprising:

a parameter value setting section that includes a plurality of operators manually operable to set a plurality of parameter values used for applying a desired visual effect to the picture;

a sequence control section having a memory for pre-storing a variation of a parameter value settable by one of the operators for a given time interval, said sequence control section sequentially reads out the parameter value from the memory when a reproduction of the video signal is requested, wherein said sequence control section reads out the parameter value in accordance with time progress of the reproduction of the video signal in order to vary with time the visual effect applied to the picture, and then sequentially feeds the read parameter to the video signal processing section; and

a video signal processing section that processes the video signal inputted from at least one of the input channels according to the plurality of the parameter values, including the parameter value fed from the sequence control section,

wherein the operators include a skip operator that is operated to specify a time interval of updating the parameter values, so that the sequence control section sequentially updates the parameter values stepwise at the time interval specified by the skip operator.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the operators include a manual progression operator manually operable to input a desired operation amount in association with variation of the visual effect, so that the sequence control section controls the sequential feeding of the parameter values in response to the operation amount of the manual progression operator.

Claims 3-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the parameter value setting section has a plurality of operators in correspondence to a plurality of video signals inputted from a plurality of input channels and sets corresponding parameter values for the corresponding video signals by the corresponding operators, the sequence control section sequentially feeds the corresponding parameter values for the corresponding video signals, and the video signal processing section processes the corresponding video signals according to the corresponding parameter values which are either set by the corresponding operators or fed from the sequence control section, and

wherein the sequence control section uses the memory for memorizing the corresponding parameter values set by operating the corresponding operators one by one, and sequentially reads out the memorized parameter values in accordance with the time progress.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the operators are provided in correspondence to the input channels for individually setting the respective parameter values of the video signals inputted from the respective input channels.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the video signal processing section processes a plurality of video signals inputted from the plurality of the input channels, and outputs the processed video signals to the output channel.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method of inputting a video signal representative of a picture from a plurality of input channels, then processing the video signal to apply a visual effect to the picture, and outputting the processed video signal to an output channel, the method comprising the steps of:

operating a plurality of operators to set a plurality of parameter values used for applying a desired visual effect to the picture;

storing to a memory the set parameter values;

sequentially reading out the stored parameter values from the memory when a reproduction of the video signal is requested;

sequentially feeding the read parameter values in accordance with time progress of processing the video signal in order to vary with time the visual effect applied to the picture; and

processing the video signal inputted from at least one of the input channels according to either of the parameter values set by the operators or the sequentially fed parameter values; and

operating at least one of the plurality of operators to specify a time interval of updating the parameter values so as to cause sequential updating of the parameter values stepwise at the time interval specified.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A program for use in an apparatus having <u>a plurality of</u> <u>operators and</u> a processor for inputting a video signal representative of a picture from a plurality of input channels, then processing the video signal to apply a visual effect to the picture, and outputting the processed video signal to an output channel, the program being executable by the processor for causing the apparatus to perform a method comprising the steps of:

in <u>response to the operation of the</u> ~~operating a~~ plurality of operators<u>, setting</u> ~~to set~~ a plurality of parameter values used for applying a desired visual effect to the picture;

storing to a memory the set parameter values;

sequentially reading out the stored parameter values from the memory when a reproduction of the video signal is requested;

sequentially feeding the read parameter values in accordance with time progress of processing the video signal in order to vary with time the visual effect applied to the picture; ~~and~~

processing the video signal inputted from at least one of the input channels according to either of the parameter values set by the operators or the sequentially fed parameter values<u>; and</u>

<u>in response to the operation of at least one of the plurality of operators, specifying a time</u> <u>interval of updating the parameter values so as to cause sequential updating of the parameter values</u> <u>stepwise at the time interval specified.</u>